

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 M-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-08 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07 SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02

PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-20

SY-04 SCS-03 DODE-00 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 142147Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1495

INFO GOV PAN CANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS,PFOR, PN,US

SUBJECT: INDUSTRY MINISTER APOLOGIZES FOR INCIDENT

1. IN VIEW OF EXTENSIVE DAMAGE CAUSED TO EMBASSY TODAY BY DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS, I INVITED THE ARCHITECT OF GOP'S BANANA STRATEGY, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES MINISTER FERNANDO MANFREDO, TO MY OFFICE. HE ARRIVED ACCOMPANIED BY VICE MINISTER JULIETTA FABREGA DE LA LORENZO. MINISTER MANFREDO WAS VISIBLY SURPRISED AT SHAMBLES IN MY OFFICE AND AT NUMBER OF ROCKS AND BROKEN GLASS NEAR MY DESK AND IN ADJOINING CONFERENCE ROOM. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WHEN I RECOUNTED THE PASSIVE ROLE WHICH THE GUARDIA NACIONAL PLAYED THROUGHOUT THE DEMONSTRATION. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT 3 OR 4 GUARDS HAD LIMITED THEMSELVES TO DIRECTING TRAFFIC AROUND THE MAIN BODY OF STUDENTS OR CHATTED WITH SOME DEMONSTRATORS WHILE SITTING IN PATROL CAR PARKED NEAR EMBASSY. MINISTER ASKED FOR A CHRONOLOGY OF THE DEMONSTRATION AND NUMBER OF TIMES EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR GUARDIA NACIONAL PROTECTION.

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2. MINISTER MANFREDO EXPLAINED HOW IN PAST HE HAS TALKED WITH STUDEN GROUPS AND HAS SPECIFICALLY ADVISED THEM NOT TO TAKE DIRECT OR VIOLET ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE BANANA CONTROVERSY SINCE THE PANAMANIAN CASE "ALREADY HAS THE FACTS AND THE LAW IN ITS FAVOR." HE STATED THAT HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT THE GOP HAS NEVER BEEN UNDER PRESSURE BY ANY USG OFFICIAL OR AGENCY TO SETTLE THE CASE AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD COUNSELED THE COMPANY TO SEEK AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

3. AFTER OBSERVING THE DAMAGE TO THE EMBASSY,THE MINISTER PROFERRED HIS OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL APOLOGY AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT WHAT HE HAD SEEN TO GENERAL TORRIJOS. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE INTO THE UN-EXPLAINED GUARDIA NACIONAL ATTITUDE AS WELL AS INTO THE REASONS WHY STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL (HIGH SCHOOL FROM WHERE DEMONSTRATORS COME) WERE PERMITTED TO LEAVE CLASSES TO DEMONSTRATE.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 14 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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